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The Highlander

Thursday **February 20 2025** | Issue 677

INSIDE: MEET THE CANDIDATES SEE PAGES 10-11 **FREE**

Dorset Snowball keeps on rolling

Tyler Ferguson shows his Canadian pride at the Dorset Snowball winter festival Feb. 15, while wildlife caller Steve Morrin blows a horn (inset) See more coverage on page 9. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

OPP chief addresses County drug crisis

By Mike Baker

After another major drug trafficking investigation led to four more arrests in Haliburton village Feb. 4, Haliburton Highlands OPP interim detachment commander, Mike Cavanagh, said police are investing significant time and resources targeting the illegal narcotics supply in the County.

Approximately 25 officers from the detachment, the Haliburton Highlands and Kawartha Lakes OPP Community Street Crime Unit, and OPP Tactics and Rescue Unit, searched a pair of properties on Highland Street and Pine Avenue earlier this month, confiscating weapons and approximately $50,000 worth of drugs.

Cst. Rob Adams confirmed police seized a CZ P10 nine-millimetre handgun; Mossberg 715T semi-automatic rifle; HK USP .177 handgun; 194 rounds of ammunition; 409.2 grams of cocaine; 369 hydromorphone pills; 152.6 grams of hash; 5.115 litres of GHB; 500 milligrams of anabolic steroids; 55.6 grams of illicit cannabis; 57 packages of 3,000 milligram illicit cannabis gummies; a cocaine brick press; scales, packaging and vacuum sealer; and $3,355 in cash.

"There were all kinds of products seized – for GHB, that's the most I've ever seen in one place in my whole career," Cavanagh said.

Four people were arrested, with two charged. Shawn Harding, 37, of Haliburton was charged with: three counts of possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking; two counts of careless storage of a prohibited or restricted firearm; two counts of unauthorized

Continued **'Second'** on page 2

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Highlander news

Second major drug bust of the year

Continued from page 1

possession of a prohibited or restricted firearm; two counts of knowledge of unauthorized possession of a firearm; possession of loaded prohibited or restricted firearm; possession of a firearm knowing serial number has been tampered with; possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000; and two counts of possession of cannabis for the purpose of selling.

Amy Harman, a 43-year-old Algonquin Highlands resident, was charged with possession of a schedule one substance. Cavanagh confirmed she has since been released, but Harding remains in custody.

The charges have not been proven in court.

This was the second major bust of the year, following a raid on a multi-unit property on George Street Jan. 21. Multiple firearms, ammunition, knives and drugs were seized following that investigation, which led to the arrest of 41-year-old Dysart resident Brian Reid. Police confirmed Reid remains in custody awaiting a court hearing. His charges have not been proven in court.

On the rise

Despite seeing a spike in drug-related charges last year – 17 in 2024, up from five in 2023 – and eight already this year, Cavanagh insists police aren't doing too much differently.

"These things are very cyclical – some years we have a lot of cases, sometimes we don't. It mostly depends on the quality of information we're receiving," the chief said. "Each [drug] investigation is a 10-out-of-10 in terms of importance and priority… drug use is a plight in communities.

"We all see the visible signs of addiction – but the invisible signs are the suffering people go through, that families have to endure… these issues have multiple layers, it's social, health, judicial all wrapped into one," Cavanagh added.

He said investigatons, "could range from one day to over a year in length. Drug investigations often are not going off physical evidence. It's going off belief. Officers have to corroborate everything – they have to go to a judge to get orders and follow a very strict process."

He said the average time spent per drug-related investigation is 80.5 hours, compared to 3.5 hours for standard criminal code calls.

Process in place

Cavanagh said drug investigations routinely require assistance from several officers.

"They're very resource-heavy… it's not like in the movies, where you have a couple of officers parked in a car on a stake out. We can't always have people at one site monitoring, we don't have the manpower for that," he said. "Sometimes, we're completely reliant on what we hear from the community."

That was the case with the January arrest, where police corroborated with County non-profit Places for People (P4P), which owns the George Street building, and at least one civilian.

Cavanagh said the public plays a major role in helping to rid the community of illegal activity, though noted services like Crimestoppers, which allows for anonymous reporting of suspected crimes, "aren't utilized to their full potential in this area."

While recognizing police are never going to completely eradicate illicit drug supply in the Highlands, Cavanagh said they will continue chipping away.

"Elimination is never a focus – that's extremely difficult, almost impossible when the supply chain exists… often, these people are part of a wider scheme, so we don't get rid of the problem, we just disrupt it," he said. "We haven't seen or noticed any [positive] results come through yet… these people are connected, it's likely others [take their place]… and users will migrate to purchase what they want and need elsewhere.

"But it's important for us to address the drug issue in our community. We will keep investigating… we don't do this to ruin lives, like some of those who end up on the wrong side think - it's to save lives," Cavanagh said.

Approximately $50,000 worth of drugs and multiple weapons were confiscated by Haliburton Highlands OPP following busts in Haliburton village Feb. 4. *Submitted.*

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County council votes itself a pay rise

By Lisa Gervais

County councillors will see a pay rise retroactive to Jan. 1.

In reviewing compensation, CAO Gary Dyke said the 2024 rates for upper-tier politicians, "are considerably less than the median compensation rates for the other 13 comparable member municipalities of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC)."

It had been $46,682.16 for warden, $20,833.44 for deputy warden and $19,218.36 for councillors. The EOWC median salaries are $57,519.18 for warden, $25,200.81 for deputy warden and $23,242.41 for councillors.

Dyke suggested going with the EOWC median…with the warden's salary jumping by $10.837.02, the deputy warden's by $4,367.37 and councillors' by $4,024.05.

It should be noted that is in addition to what they are earning from their townships. So, for example, County warden Dave Burton will now receive $57,519.18 as warden and $32,500 as mayor of Highlands East, for a combined salary of just over $90,000. Coun. Murray Fearrey will pull in $23,242.41 as a County councillor and $40,000 as mayor of Dysart for a combined $63,242.41. Both Highlands East and Dysart et al increased pay effective Jan. 1 as well.

All other rates, such as for mileage, and per diems for non-council meeting attendance will remain the same.

Dyke's recommendation was for implementation on Jan. 1, 2026.

However, Fearrey said the date should be Jan. 1, 2025. He said it was important to implement a year out of the next municipal election, scheduled for the fall of 2026. He said he wanted potential candidates to know the rate of pay well in advance of the next local polls.

> *I think as community leaders, it's incumbent upon us to set the standard and say we're not going to take a pay rise while folks are hurting this much.*
>
> ***County coun. Jennifer Dailloux***

"Some of us are getting old here, and we need to be replaced, and we need young people to replace us. And we're not seeing a whole lot of young people (running for council)," Fearrey said.

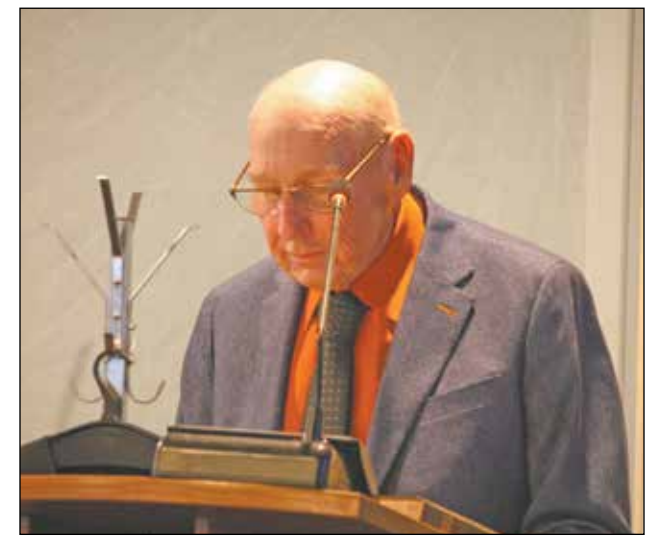
He added, "I think we need to move now. I don't see why we need to wait for a year. If you're doing the job, you should get the money."

Deputy warden Liz Danielsen agreed with Fearrey's intent, but said since they had not budgeted for a pay rise in 2025, perhaps they could spread it over two fiscal years.

Dyke said it would have minimal impact on the budget – at about $40,000 – and the municipality could find the money internally, and not pass the cost on to taxpayers.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux liked going with an EOWC median salary, "however, I would respectfully disagree that we start any earlier than the beginning of next term. I believe our community is really experiencing hard financial times, and I know that everyone at this table knows and respects that too.

"I think as community leaders, it's incumbent upon us to set the standard and say we're not going to take a pay rise while folks are hurting this much. But the folks that replace us, that's another story, and I do fully agree that that we need to get good people sitting around this table, in lower-tier, and salary is part of it. It's not an easy job. It's not a well understood job. There is a lot of hatred that comes our way, and people need to be compensated for their pains. But I think given the state of our community right now, we should defer for the next term."



County Coun. Murray Fearrey said the pay rise is to attract candidates. *File.*

Fearrey said he understood where Dailloux was coming from, but the money for the increase would not have to impact taxpayers and "the economy could be worse next year."

Called to a vote, the majority of council approved the pay rise retroactive to Jan. 1, 2025.

HHSS locked down following knife incident

By Mike Baker

A 14-year-old Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) student was arrested in Haliburton village Feb. 14 and is facing multiple weapons-related charges after what police say was an incident involving a knife on school premises.

Officers responded to a 9-1-1 call from the school at approximately 9:15 a.m. after learning a student was in possession of a blade.

The school was placed into an immediate lockdown, said Haliburton Highlands OPP cst. Rob Adams.

"This is a step that is taken to ensure the safety of the school community while police work to resolve the situation," he said.

A source, speaking anonymously, told *The Highlander* the accused stole a knife from a classroom and brandished it towards other students before leaving the property.

Police confirmed the youth was located along Highland Street, a short distance from the downtown, where they were apprehended by officers. The knife was recovered at the time of the arrest.

The student has been charged with possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, assault with a weapon, and theft under $5,000. Adams said no injuries were reported to police.

The lockdown was lifted by approximately 10:30 a.m.

Adams said the accused will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a later date to answer to the charges. The student's identity is protected under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Anyone with further information on the incident is asked to call 705-286-1431, or contact Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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Highlander news

DYSART ET AL NEWS

Ready, set, charge

Dysart et al council is applying for up to $125,000 to install four new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in Haliburton village.

The money is offered through the 'Charged for Change' program funded by Aviva insurance. The purpose of the program, according to Susan Hay of Environment Haliburton!, is to quickly establish new chargers in under-serviced areas. She noted Haliburton village has one location, with two charters beside the Haliburton welcome centre.

"In a tourism-based economy, the lack of charging stations could negatively impact our local economy," she said, noting nearby Minden Hills has 13 charging heads and Bancroft 10.

Peter Ewald, a director with Lakeland Solutions, said if approved, his Bracebridge-based company would install the chargers and cover all costs to service and maintain. It currently operates 58 stations across 16 sites in Ontario.

Ewald estimated the project would cost $60,000 to $70,000 to complete. He estimated the stations would take up four parking spots, which Lakeland Solutions would lease from the township. Typical agreements are for 12 years, with two five-year extensions, he said.

The only cost to the municipality would be for ensuring spaces are plowed in the winter and bylaw enforcement for people misusing the equipment. The township would keep any fines, Ewald said.

He said the company typically charges between $2.50 and $3.50 per hour for people to use the stations. The arena and library were pitched as potential locations.

Council directed staff to work with Ewald on the grant application on the understanding that no public funds be used on the project.

Community build

A new sun shelter and benches will soon be installed at the Haliburton off-leash dog park, with the township looking for businesses to help sponsor the new equipment.

Area resident Julie Park submitted a letter to council last month requesting a structure similar to the one installed on the Rotary Beach side of Head Lake Park. Andrea Mueller, Dysart's manager of programs and events, said that shelter was purchased through a local lumber company and installed by township staff.

CAO Tamara Wilbee pegged the cost at approximately $10,000 for the shelter and $1,850 for the benches, though said the township could tap into grant funding it already has for park improvements. Mayor Murray Fearrey said he'd prefer to see local businesses step up to foot the bill.

"Businesses like to do these kinds of things to help the community," Fearrey said.

Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie volunteered to seek out donations. Coun. Pat Casey said he'd pitch it to members of the Haliburton BIA.

Down in the dumps

Environmental manager John Watson said it has been a busy year at the township's five landfill sites.

Through 2024, he said there were 183,211 visits to sites in Haliburton, Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay, and West Guilford – a 2.83 per cent increase from 2023. Watson noted landfill staff processed 7,066 metric tons of waste materials, a six per cent decrease from the previous year.

Construction and demolition waste accounted for 51 per cent of all materials processed, Watson noted.

He said the township spent $447,000 hauling and processing garbage, which is first taken to a transfer station in Orillia and then a landfill in Sarnia.

Watson said the township collected 28.85 metric tons of textiles, 58.55 tons of electronic waste, 77 kilograms of used batteries, and serviced 557 appliances for freon removal. *(Dysart et al briefs compiled by Mike Baker).*

The Highlander: small fish splashing in a big pond

The Highlander has been named a finalist in seven categories in this year's best newspaper competition for the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA).

It was announced Feb. 14 that the only locally-owned paper in the County is up for the general excellence award for papers with a circulation of 8,001 and over. We are competing with the *Elmira-Woolwich Observer* and *Niagara-on-the-Lake, The Lake Report* for the top prize.

In the premier awards, assistant editor Mike Baker has been named a finalist in the Environment Ontario category for his story 'A great year for shoreline rules".

Editor Lisa Gervais is a finalist in three awards' categories. She is shortlisted for feature writing – for a story she wrote on taking the last bus from Haliburton to the GTA. She is up for best news story, for a breaking tale of OPP detonating explosives at a cottage in Algonquin Highlands. Gervais is also shortlisted for best feature/new series for her work on 'Oh deer Haliburton we have a problem!' Gervais also got an honourable mention for best front page for her story on deer feeding in Haliburton.

Gervais and Baker have also been named to the top three for headline writing.

Winners will be announced in Niagara on the Lake April 11.

With categories changing this year, putting *The Highlander* up against larger papers, publisher Heather Kennedy said she was proud of the editorial team. She also thanked her production and advertising teams – and, of course, advertisers and readers, for supporting the perennial award-winning publication.

"We're proud of what *The Highlander* means to our County and it is an honour to work on advertisers and readers' behalf. When we get a pat on the back, especially from an independent outsider, it tells us we stack up well against the best of the province."

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (7 Milne St, Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

February 27 – Regular Council Meeting
March 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings in-person or via the live-stream link.

TOWNSHIP SEEKING MEMBERS FOR THE PROPERTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking resident members to serve on the Property Standards Committee for the 2024-2026 term. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a copy of their resume and cover letter to admin@mindenhills.ca by February 21, 2025. For more information regarding the Property Standards Committee visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

NOTICE OF SCHEDULE CHANGE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that due to the cancellation of the February 13 Regular Council Meeting, Agenda items from the cancelled meeting will be moved to the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for February 27, 2025. Closed session items will proceed after the delegation section of the Agenda.

PA DAY ½ DAY CAMP AGES 6-12

Activities, games and crafts at the Arena on February 28th! Bring a refillable water bottle, a snack, and athletic attire. Drop-off between 8:30 and 9:00am Pick up between 12:00 and 12:30pm Registration must occur beforehand. Cost: $20.

2025 RECYCLING EVENTS

Household Hazardous Waste events at the Minden Arena (55 Parkside St) 8am-12pm on May 24, July 19, and September 20. Confidential Paper Shredding event at Scotch Line Landfill from 9am-1pm on June 28

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

A blocked exhaust vent can cause the Carbon-Monoxide emitted by fuel-burning appliances to build up, posing a safety hazard. When clearing snow around your property, give your exhaust vents a check.

SNOW REMOVAL

Section 181 of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing so to do from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

Leave extra space when driving and approach intersections slowly. Watch out for black ice - it can make the road look like shiny new asphalt. Pavement should look grey or white in the winter.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

Permanent Part-Time Waste Facilities Operator
Temporary Full-Time Community Services Operator
Summer Students for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Centre

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The 2025 Interim tax bills were mailed on Friday, February 14th, 2025. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the March due date, please contact our office.

The Interim tax bill will be payable in two installments: March 21st and May 23rd, 2025. This bill has been calculated using the 2024 annualized assessment multiplied by 50% of the 2024 applicable tax rate(s).

Payments received after February 6th may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts shown on your tax bill do not include interest for March. Please contact our office for a current balance.

Property owners are responsible to provide the Municipal Office with written notification of any address change. As per the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

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Highlander news

Dysart considers photo radar for Wigamog Road

By Mike Baker

Clifford Ottaway feels it's just a matter of time before a pedestrian is seriously injured, or worse, on Wigamog Road.

The Dysart et al resident delivered a petition signed by 60 people to council recently, calling for the establishment of a community safety zone (CSZ) along a 2.5 kilometre stretch of the rural thoroughfare. Ottaway said over the past 10 years there has been a substantial increase in the number of people residing on the road, leading to increased traffic.

Despite attempts by the township to slow vehicles, including placement of digital radar signs in recent summers, Ottaway said speeding remains a major issue.

By implementing a CSZ, the posted speed limit would drop from 50 to 40 km/h. He said there are several jurisdictions in Ontario using them as a traffic-slowing tool in the hopes of improving road safety. Ingoldsby has had one for several years, while Minden Hills recently established CSZs along Water Street and Bobcaygeon Road.

"There are a number of criteria used [for determining] CSZ… one of those is if a road is less than 8.5 metres across. This segment is less than six metres across," Ottaway said. "There's no sidewalk on either side, which is another criteria. And there are two or more curves within a short distance, which also applies.

"We ask council to seriously consider this… and I would ask this be done in an expeditious manner, because the road gets a lot busier with pedestrian traffic in the summer. In high season… there will be a lot of people on that road in danger," he added.

Coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts said she has lobbied for a CSZ along Wigamog Road for years. West Guilford-area coun. Carm Sawyer feels the issues expressed are similar to what he hears from residents of Green Lake Road, saying he gets speed-related complaints regularly.

Sawyer believes this issue boils down to a lack of police enforcement.

"At the end of the day it doesn't matter what signs we put up, if the OPP don't enforce it nothing will change. What you're saying is a great idea, but it's not going to slow people down," he said.

Clifford Ottaway wants to see Dysart council establish a community safety zone along a stretch of Wigamog Road. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Public works director, Rob Camelon, urged council not to rush into a decision it may later regret.

"My concern is if we designate Wigamog Road as a CSZ, we've literally set a precedent for every other municipal road in the township. I don't think that's what council wants," Camelon said.

He noted the County is currently working on a blanket policy that would establish consistent criteria for CSZs across the four lower-tier townships, which he's supportive of.

Coun. Tammy Donaldson said she's seen photo radar work as a speed deterrent in other areas and wondered if that could be an option. Camelon said automated enforcement is typically done via a contract with a third party, which takes a cut of tickets issued. He said there is little cost to the township.

Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie liked the idea. "I think we should make this an example. Get one of the cameras and try it… we can't just keep kicking the can around. If this will save someone from getting hurt, we've got [to do it]."

Camelon noted the cameras automatically take a photo of license plates of vehicles travelling over the speed limit, even if it's only by one km/h. When mayor Murray Fearrey said he didn't want to see people punished for such a negligible encroachment, Camelon replied, "speed limits are not suggestions."

The director will investigate options for photo radar and bring recommendations, as well as an update on the County's CSZ process, to a future meeting.

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Highlander news

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Three candidates face the voters in County debate

By Lisa Gervais

The absence of the PCs Laurie Scott from a virtual candidates' debate for Haliburton County Feb. 16 did not go without commentary.

Liberal Alison Bennie, NDP Barbara Doyle, and Green Tom Regina all joined the debate organized by the Save Minden Ontario Emergency Room group.

The group's Patrick Porzuczek commented on her no-show.

"As we all know, Doug Ford has asked all of his MPPs not to attend any debates, not to make themselves public for questioning, or to answer any questions to do with their own platforms, and how they are representing the riding," he said.

Porzuczek added while a Ford directive, "unfortunately, as we all know, Laurie Scott has been missing. Whenever it came to the tough questions, or to ask her to represent the Minden emergency department in the Legislature, or even to come out to town halls to talk about the fate of the ER, she always declined, or never showed up. This really hurts the riding in all aspects."

He added he had heard from members of the public, trying to meet with Scott but, "she always turns them down, unless it is in her own interest to prop herself up. Being a career candidate, Laurie Scott has forgotten how it is, and what it means to represent her constituents."

Doyle also addressed her competitor's absence.

"As you've noticed, Laurie Scott is nowhere to be seen. As a constituent, I would like to ask her some questions. But she's not answering anything. And she hasn't for the last seven years under the Doug Ford government."

Doyle then went on to take a swipe at the premier. The NDP candidate said the snap election was "completely unnecessary and will cost taxpayers $180 million – when Doug Ford didn't need a mandate whatsoever and based on the fear-mongering of Donald Trump's tariff threats."

The group asked the candidates how they would ensure open and transparent communication between them, if elected, and the public.

Doyle said it was an important question, with government leaders "now in hiding. They're not being held accountable to their actions, to their constituents, and to government agencies." She said the NDP shows transparency in telling voters how they are going to fund their platform – "not $200 bribe cheques."

NDP candidate Barbara Doyle conceded to PC Laurie Scott in the June 2022 election. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Regina said he'd work for his constituents as his party leader is not his boss. He said if people contact him, he will try to get back to them. "When you have concerns, I will listen. If I don't know the answers, I will seek them out. When an issue arises that affects our riding, I will stand up for it. These are the expectations of an MPP."

Bennie said she would send newsletters to constituents and would like to have town hall meetings in the villages and towns throughout the riding. She wants face-to-face meetings to hear concerns, issues and suggested solutions.

Fate of Minden ER

Asked if their parties would reopen the Minden ER, Bennie said the Liberals have a health care platform. She said the first step is getting people family doctors so they do not need to rely on the ER for primary health care. If elected, she said she would like to work with the group.

Doyle said leader Marit Stiles was on record as saying the NDP would reopen it. However, she said it would take time, needing to change legislation and get money flowing, then restaffing and resupplying and becoming operational.

Regina would not 100 per cent commit to reopening the Minden ER, calling it "a long-standing and very complicated issue." However, he said funding had to be restored for health care to get doctors to rural areas such as ours.

There were also organizer questions about affordability and cost of living; the environment and rural sustainability, economic development, education and youth services.

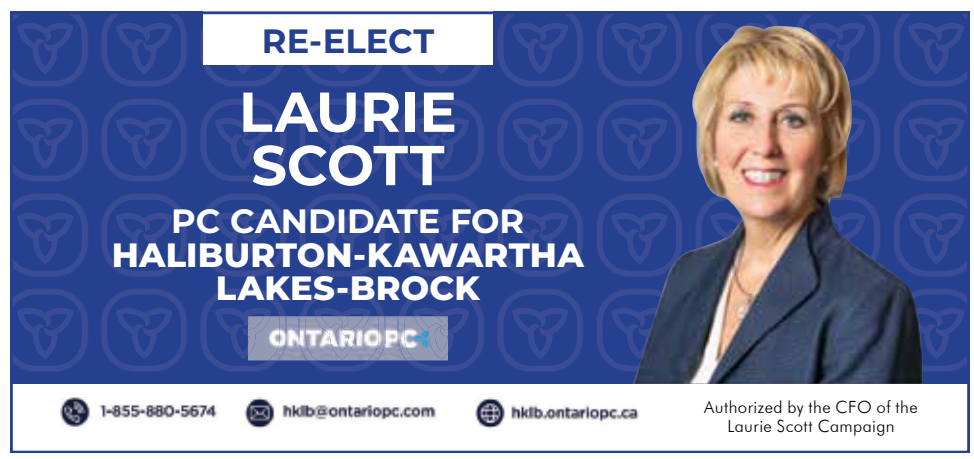
Advance polls Feb. 20–22

Dorset Rec Centre, 1051 Main St., Dorset, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Lloyd Watson Memorial CC, 2249 Loop Rd., Wilberforce, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 129 Haliburton, 719 Mountain St. Haliburton 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

There is no advanced polling station in Minden.



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Crombie makes Minden whistle stop

By Mike Baker

Ontario Liberal leader Bonnie Crombie made a passionate Valentine's Day plea to voters in Minden Feb. 14, promising to reopen the community's emergency room "as soon as possible" if elected as premier in next week's provincial election.

Meeting with members of the 'Minden Matters' advocacy group at Tim Hortons last Friday, Crombie unpacked her $3 billion plan to rejuvenate public health care in Ontario.

"We're going to invest to recruit, attract, train and retain new doctors, but also incentivize retiring doctors to stay a little longer. We want to bring more foreign-trained doctors through our mentorship programs, and double the spaces in our residency programs," Crombie told *The Highlander.*

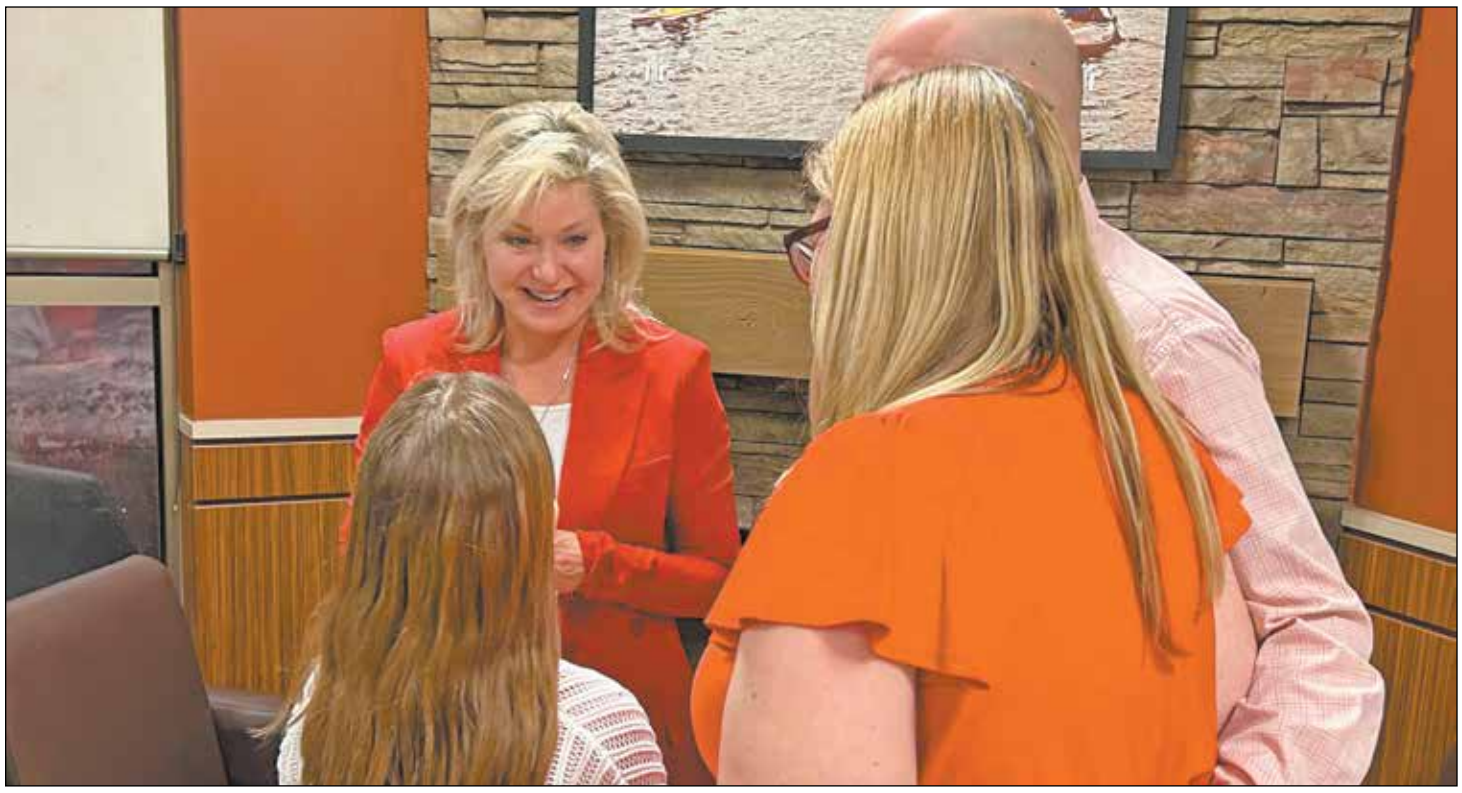
She said the Liberals will also focus on building capacity of family physicians, which she believes will take the strain off hospitals.

With the Ontario College of Family Physicians claiming last year there are up to 2.5 million people in the province without a family doctor, Crombie said addressing that shortfall would be her number one priority.

"We have a commitment to ensure everyone, within four years, has a family doctor," she said. "We have thought this through. We have a plan, we know how we're going to do it. We're going to bring in 3,100 more doctors to the system," she said.

Twenty-one months from the closure of the Minden ER, Crombie said she would get to work on reopening the facility as soon as Feb. 28 – the day after the election.

"We strongly believe the ER needs to reopen, as do other clinics across the province. You can't attract new businesses if you don't have health care in your community. People's lives matter, and in emergency situations, sometimes seconds matter. The 25-minute drive to Haliburton is too far when your life is at stake.



Ontario Liberal leader Bonnie Crombie was in Minden Feb. 14 to discuss plans for reopening the Minden ER. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

"I would think [we'd reopen] as soon as possible. As soon as we can get the staff back in place and get it going," Crombie said.

NDP leader Marit Stiles, who visited Minden in 2023 following the closure, has also committed to reopening the facility if elected.

Other priorities

With cost of living spiralling out of control, Crombie said she has a plan to cut costs for low-income earners and the middle class.

"We're going to cut income taxes for the first $75,000 that you earn. We're going to drop the income tax by 22 per cent, we're going to take the HST off home heating and hydro," Crombie said.

The former Mississauga mayor said the Liberals also want to axe development charges and other taxes levied on builders and passed to buyers, with the province stepping in to "make municipalities whole." She said this will reduce the cost of building and lower house prices for the public.

She has also committed to permanently doubling benefits people get through the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). Approximately 500,000 people rely on the program as their primary income source, earning a maximum of $1,368 per month.

Crombie did not say how she planned to fund these enhancements, though panned Doug Ford's plan to spend billions addressing gridlock in the GTA by building a commuter tunnel under Hwy. 401.

"I always ask people, is your life more affordable today than it was before Doug Ford? And of course, it isn't… we're going to bring back the basics, bring affordability back to the people.

"When talking about Canadian pride, Ontarian pride given the threat of the tariffs, one thing that makes me so proud is our health care plan… we are not in favour of more privatization. We believe in a strong, universally-funded plan that supports all of our residents equally," she said.

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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It's up to you to decide our future

By Lisa Gervais

Amidst record-low voter turnout province-wide June 2, 2022, PC Laurie Scott recorded another sweeping victory in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, garnering 52.8 per cent of the local vote (25,656 total votes). It handed her a sixth term in office.

Barbara Doyle, representing the NDP, finished a distant second, with 15.8 per cent (7,677 votes). She is running again.

Liberal Don McBey came third with 13.6 per cent (6,606 votes). He's been replaced as a candidate by Cannington businessperson Alison Bennie.

The others, Ontario Party, Greens, New Blue Party and Libertarian, had a combined 17.9 per cent (8,697 votes).

In total, 48,636 ballots were cast in HKLB – down from 57,143 in 2018. That was a voter turnout of less than 50 per cent for the first time in more than 25 years.

We could play the what if game. What if the other 50 per cent had voted? Would Scott still have won by a landslide?

What if the riding's votes had not been so split? What if there was just an NDP candidate, or just a Liberal candidate?

With advance polls getting underway today - and it's true: there isn't one in Minden - and the full ballot Feb. 27, what can we extrapolate?

We don't think voter turnout numbers are going to improve … in the dead of winter … with many snowbirds and travellers out of the province. What if we get another dump of snow on polling day?

Why do people not vote? Many say they are not interested in politics. I'm not buying it. Are you telling me you are not interested when you don't have a family doctor? Do you not have an opinion about a tunnel under the 401 that would cost billions? Conversely, do you not have a thought about the Liberals, NDP and Greens promising to double ODSP? Committed platforms run the gamut. Does your kid go to college or university? The Liberals would scrap interest on OSAP loans and raise the threshold for repayment to $50,000. The Greens are promising an extra $1,500 per-student funding. Maybe your kid will get that EA now. But I guess you don't care.

Too busy? Are you serious? I'm not buying that excuse either.

Locally, with nine candidates, there is going to be some vote splitting that will likely benefit the incumbent.

On that night in June 2022 when Scott got the nod from voters, she said while door-knocking, she heard people liked what the Ford government had been doing, citing investments in infrastructure, broadband, highways, transit, long-term care, hospitals, and new schools.

In Haliburton County, Scott said the province would be working with senior administration at Haliburton Highlands Health Services to ensure the hospitals' needs were met. The Minden ER was subsequently closed, though Scott said that was entirely a HHHS decision.

She spoke of more money for high-speed broadband by 2025 – a project that has seen delays at the Eastern Ontario Regional Network level.

She discussed continued investment in jobs training and post-secondary education for fields most in-need, such as nursing, PSWs and skilled trades. Yet, our area remains lacking.

Another of Scott's big focuses was to work with municipalities across the Highlands to address the region's housing needs. There has been little progress to date.

However, there have been other initiatives, such as a planned extension to the privately-owned Extendicare Haliburton. And, $2.4 million to put towards an affordable housing project in Minden. Of course, the latter is taxpayers' money.

It is now up to voters to decide whether or not she has done enough to earn a seventh term.

We're not telling you who to vote for. But we are telling you to vote.

LETTERS

Poverty and the election

Dear editor,

I ask voters in Ontario to think about the candidate that will consider the poverty in our community and throughout Ontario.

I am on the board for Central Food Network (CFN), a not-for-profit charity that runs two food banks in Highlands East. We also share food with Minden Food Bank and North Hasting Cupboard when available.

CFN also runs Heat Bank Haliburton, providing emergency heating for residents. We run income tax clinics so people can access benefits.

We also help individuals navigate various agencies to get hydro rebates, stop hydro disconnections, and other benefits.

CFN has a Community Cooks program that makes and freezes thousands of meals a year, distributed through the food banks.

We do all of this without any ongoing government funding. We have gotten some project specific grants from various governments but no government funding is provided our programs.

We rely on the generosity of our community and the fundraising efforts of the organization. It frightens me that the ability for someone to eat is dependent on how successful we are as an organization to raise money.

We have seen an incredible increase in need. The use of our food banks has increased 52.5 per cent from 2021. Some clients are working families made to choose between eating and rent. Use of Heat Bank Haliburton had a record 50 calls in January alone (the most ever in a single month).

Ontario needs to make a commitment to erase poverty. Individuals need to make a living wage so they can afford housing, food and heat.

As the use of food banks and heat banks and need for affordable housing has only increased in the last five-plus years, it's crucial governments we elect be responsive and responsible for basic personal rights. I ask you to consider this as you vote in the provincial election this month.

Nancy Wright-Laking
Chair of the board, Central Food Network

The Highlands Corridor

Dear editor,

Wealthy city people move into our County and, right away, want to take over everything, including this 100,000-hectares of land under the pretext of The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust to make a park, or in other words, privatize.

It's so no more property can be sold off of this mostly Crown land that Haliburton County gets no taxes from the provincial government for, but must protect it if a fire should ever happen.

They're afraid that someone might approach our government to buy up the lakeshore around some of these lakes, then subdivide it into lots so other city people can buy these lots to build their million-dollar cottages on. Therefore, the townships, and County, could levy taxes against them to offset the yearly increasing taxes that we have to pay just so a few others can enjoy all of this empty space.

Only in Canada, eh.

Don Outram
Tory Hill

Correction: In the Feb. 13 edition of *The Highlander*, we stated Dr. Thomas Piggott, the new interim medical officer of health for the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough health unit grew up in Oakwood. It was his wife who grew up there. Piggott was raised in Vancouver, Collingwood and Montreal. We apologize for this error.

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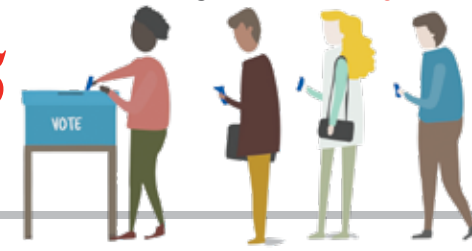
Highlander events

Snowball just keeps on rolling

The Dorset Snowball is a winter celebration that happens every Family Day weekend in February. The event that is put on entirely by volunteers, started back in 1991, to help raise money for the recreation centre. Organized by Algonquin Highlands township, it is aimed at providing affordable family fun for people all over the County and beyond to come out and enjoy a great community event. *(Justin Belanger)*

Top left: Mr. and Mrs. Snowball make their return to the annual festival. Top right: Don and Susan McLaren suited up in lumberjack colours waving the Canadian flag, which just had it's 60th anniversary. Second row, left: A young Ellora Quinlan tries out some bear claws. Right: Emmitt Jurchison peeks out of his bubble ball. Third row, left: Town Crier Bruce Kruger officially opens the Dorset Snowball winter festival Feb. 15. Above left: Vaseonna McFarlane gives his daughter a spin while waiting for the parade. Above right: 'Milan' with their humans, Hailey Byl and Sandi London, enjoying the festival. Left: Jacob Outram expertly carving a bunny with a chainsaw. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Meet the candidates 2025



Allison Bennie, Liberal candidate

Q: One of the biggest issues in this election is affordability. Many Haliburton County residents don't receive enough income to make ends meet. What are you going to do about this? Give concrete examples.

A: These are just a few of the Ontario Liberal's ideas: We have a plan to cut your taxes, lower the cost of housing, eliminate HST on hydro/heating; reducing the small business tax rate by half and a commitment to end the consumer carbon tax. We will double Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits and index it to inflation. We will make it cheaper to get a post-secondary degree by eliminating the interest on OSAP loans. And we will also delay repayment until young graduates make at least $50,000 a year.
Our aim is to make life more affordable, not just for Haliburton County residents, but all Ontarians.

Q: The election caught some people off-guard, but being the final candidate to register in HKLB, while most of your opponents have had a two-week head start, begs the question why should voters take you seriously?

A: We need change in the province and Bonnie Crombie and her team represent change.
I have had to work twice as hard to try to catch up. I think this shows my commitment to answering the call when I was asked to run. The amount of volunteer work I have done and still do in the community shows my commitment to making our communities a better place to live and work. I want our region to thrive, and being a part of that, and working with the residents, here is important to me.

Q: The knock on the Liberals has always been that they "spend, spend, spend..." how are you and your party going to fiscally right the ship while making so many funding promises, particularly around health care and the commitment to reopen the Minden ER?

A: The wasteful spending that has taken place since Ford's Conservatives came into power will be stopped. Liberals will give our crumbling healthcare system the attention and support it deserves. A few highlights are: a guarantee that everyone in Ontario gets a family doctor in the next four years; educate, attract and retain thousands of new domestic and internationally trained family doctors. Offer a bonus to patriotic nurses and doctors who want to come back home to Canada from the U.S. Modernize family medicine, make appointments available on evenings and weekends. Stop penalizing patients if they seek urgent care at walk-in clinics.
I support the re-opening of the Minden ER and would work closely with the Save Minden ER group to help make that happen.

Q: Leader Bonnie Crombie has promised to double ODSP payments - how quickly do you see that rolling out, and what are the anticipated costs - where will the money come from?

A: Nearly half a million people rely on ODSP, which currently provides a maximum of $1,368 per month and has remained nearly stagnant under Doug Ford. As ODSP is part of health care, and health care is a top priority, we see that being expedited. The money will be found through the stopping of the billions of dollars of spending wasted by Doug Ford. Ford has forced people with disabilities to live in poverty, while giving billions of dollars away to his rich friends. That's a fact. Bonnie Crombie has always delivered a balance budget in Mississauga and she will do the same for Ontario.

Editors note: As part of The Highlander's election coverage ahead of the Feb. 27 vote, we invited candidates from the four parties with sitting representatives at Queen's Park to answer a series of questions relating to their platforms, qualifications, and positions on key issues here in the County and beyond.
Candidates are presented in alphabetical order.
Also running in the election, but not featured in this edition are: Gene Balfour (Independent), Jacquie Barker (New Blue), Bill Denby (Freedom Party), Brian Kerr (Ontario Party), and Zachary Tisdale (Libertarian).

Barbara Doyle, NDP candidate

Q: One of the biggest issues in this election is affordability. Many Haliburton County residents don't receive enough income to make ends meet. What are you going to do about this? Give concrete examples.

A: Affordability is a top concern in this election. We need to boost rural economies, bringing good jobs that pay a living wage. Reinstating real rent control would assist families to be able to budget longer term and have housing stability. Our monthly grocery rebate will offset the increases we have seen on store shelves, and we will go after the corporations who are profiteering to an unreasonable degree and ensuring there is a transparency about price changes. For seniors, being able to stay in their homes with more care options available to them would be both sensible and respectful.

Q: After finishing second in the local vote in 2022, but still far off incumbent Laurie Scott, what plan do you have to bridge that gap?

A: Every day I am talking with voters. I want them to ask me the tough questions and I won't hide from the hard topics. Nothing will change here unless we vote differently. I am for better health care, education, housing and making life more affordable. People know how deeply committed I am to improving daily life for families here. I think that goes a long way to persuading people to trust me with their vote this time around. If I don't do a great job, people can vote me out in four years.

Q: Even if elected, you would likely form part of the Opposition at best - why would voters be better served going that route over four more years of PC reign in HKLB?

A: I keep hearing that nothing ever changes here, and nothing is getting better for our residents and municipalities. In my current position at KLMA (Kawartha Lakes Museum and Archives), I work with all levels of government to come up with collaborative solutions for funding, project management and growth. The Conservatives are complacent about the HKLB riding. They aren't looking to support growth. They aren't taking care of our people the way that we need them to. Even as an opposition party member, I would have an opportunity to bring local issues to Queen's Park, seek out industry and growth opportunities with the municipalities and champion them.

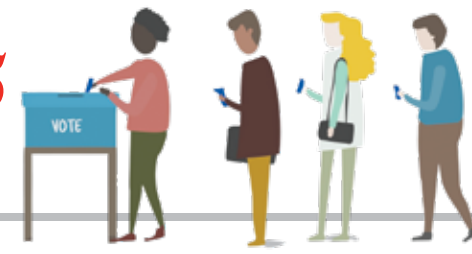
Q: Marit Styles has said she will reopen the Minden ER if elected - how does the party, first, plan to fund that? And, most importantly, find the physicians and staff to run it?

A: The Ontario government has been chronically underfunding and underspending the health care budgets, shifting unspent dollars to other nonsense projects. If we can throw away $1 billion to cancel the Beer Store contract, I think we can carve out the budget for one rural ER in Minden, serving a community that relies on it for its aging population and tourists. If you can pay people appropriately, and ensure a supply of suitable housing, there is no doubt that excellent and caring staff will be found. Publicly funded local health care costs taxpayers two-three times less than privatized services. Plus, excellent health services support growth.

Q: Some people still cringe when they think back to the reign of Bob Rae; why do you think people should give the NDP another chance to govern in Ontario?

A: The Federal transfer payment was reduced by 10 per cent. Rae could have cut public sector budgets and slashed jobs, but he showed strategic thinking to ensure public service workers could weather that storm. They were required to take a small number of unpaid days off. They got through it, jobs intact. It wasn't a popular choice, but it was a successful one. It's largely the opposition parties that demonize it, even though it was a compassionate and rational short-term strategy.
The NDP prioritizes smart spending and strong jobs. We believe in working together to help families get the better lives they deserve.

Meet the candidates 2025



Tom Regina, Green candidate

Q: One of the biggest issues in this election is affordability. Many Haliburton County residents don't receive enough income to make ends meet. What are you going to do about this? Give concrete examples.

A: Greens will move to end legislated poverty by doubling ODSP payments as a first step to phasing in basic income. Taxes will be cut for low and middle income earners under $65,000 and households under $100,000. The employer Health Tax Exemption will be raised to $1.5 million so that employers can hire more workers. Minimum wage will be raised to $20 an hour and indexed to inflation. Greens will end the land transfer tax for first time home buyers to make it more affordable for people to purchase their first home.

Q: Despite all the science in the world, no one is jumping on climate change initiatives and the Green Party has notoriously struggled to elect both MPs and MPPs - what is the solution, in your mind, to overcome this?

A: The climate crisis is impacting our lives increasingly every day. It is making life less affordable and harming our health. The Green Party is the only one that has had these concerns as a primary value since it was started. These values drive Green policy. It is taking time, but voters are now seeing that candidates can win, and that Greens can provide sound, caring and achievable solutions to the challenges we face.

Q: Share parts of your platform that would suggest you, and the Green Party of Ontario, are more than the "tree huggers" that candidates are, fairly or unfairly, often painted with?

A: "Tree huggers" is a dismissive term that normalizes an attitude that Greens have an unrealistic approach to politics and societal issues. In 2022 the *Toronto Star* called the Green housing platform "a master class in housing policy". Green policies are putting people over profits to deliver provincial services such as healthcare, housing, education, childcare and eldercare. Not-for-profit and co-operative organization models will reduce investor-driven privatization and keep public resources in public hands.

Q: Both the NDP and Liberals have claimed to have a plan to reopen the Minden ER if elected. Where does the Green Party stand, and how would you accomplish this?

A: Ontario has the lowest per capita healthcare funding in Canada. The current government response to the collapse of the system is to increase privatization. The closure of the Minden ER highlights the need for systemic improvements, greater investment in rural healthcare infrastructure and incentives to retain essential healthcare professions. Greens will increase provincial funding for rural hospitals and cut their local cost share for funding new hospitals in half. Greens will fix the staffing shortage by providing equal pay for doctors, nurses, PSWs across all communities and healthcare settings to increase capacity in rural communities.

Q: With the Liberals, NDP, and Greens all having candidates, and realistically knowing you are not going to be elected, why is it important to you that you run, and the party has a candidate potentially splitting the opposition vote?

A: With nine candidates to choose from, there will be vote splitting on both sides of the political spectrum. Many people feel that their voices will not be heard in amongst one of the main legacy parties and that their votes don't even count. The next step in the growth of democracy is electoral reform. People want to have a variety of candidates to have their concerns acknowledged. Proportional representation will be a vast improvement to a system where less than half of eligible voters will show up. We must reform a system where 18 per cent of voters award 60 per cent of seats to a party that will have 100 per cent of legislative power. We must have a system where every vote counts, and that the legislature reflects the will of the people.

Laurie Scott, Conservative candidate

Q: One of the biggest issues in this election is affordability. Many Haliburton County residents don't receive enough income to make ends meet. What are you going to do about this? Give concrete examples.

A: Our PC team is committed to putting money back into people's pockets. We've already taken several steps, such as cutting the gas tax by 10 cents per litre, eliminating licence plate sticker fees, and providing hydro relief to families. We increased ODSP rates by 5 per cent, with annual increases tied to inflation. For low-income seniors, we doubled payments and provided more access to free dental care. We raised minimum wage and reduced income taxes for 1.1 million low-income workers. We have not raised taxes and will continue to find more ways to help make life more affordable for all Ontarians.

Q: A large portion of the County community feel let down by your perceived inaction and absence throughout the closure of the Minden ER. How do you hope to regain that trust?

A: Like other areas in Ontario and Canada, HHHS faced health human resource challenges. For the community, HHHS made the difficult decision to stabilize emergency services at the Haliburton Hospital. I know this decision was not what anyone wanted or expected. I quickly worked with local health care providers and the Ministry of Health to establish the urgent care clinic at the Minden location. I further supported HHHS in their introduction of CT Scan and Mammography services which has helped attract more doctors and nurses and has kept ambulances closer to home. Our PC team will continue to make historic investments to connect everyone to primary care.

Q: What is your position on Doug Ford's plan to invest billions on a tunnel under the 401?

A: Congestion and lack of infrastructure is a big issue facing Ontarians. A recent report showed gridlock costs the Ontario economy $56 billion and 88,000 jobs every year. These lack of investments by previous governments have resulted in our highways not meeting the needs of the Ontario people. I believe we should be looking at all options and those proposals that offer the best return should move forward. Our PC team will deliver on our commitment to keep Ontario moving.

Q: After six terms in office, what motivates you for a seventh run? What have you done over the past two-and-a-half years to ensure you're keeping in touch with the community's wants and needs?

A: I would like to build on the progress we've made, completing important projects for the community. It's incredibly rewarding to work with our municipalities creating housing, development of new schools, expansion of healthcare services and programs for our first responders. I am also excited to see growth in tourism, culture, and recreational spaces.
I spend time connecting with constituents, business owners, farmers, healthcare workers, and all sectors of our communities, to understand concerns and challenges. As much as we have accomplished, there is still much more to be done. I am proud to live and work locally.

Q: After losing your position as a cabinet minister, due to a perception you were not part of Doug Ford's team, you have been relegated to the backbenches, having little influence on party decisions. How can you represent us well at Queen's Park?

A: Whether serving this riding and Ontario as an MPP and/or cabinet minister, we are all a team as part of the Doug Ford government. That is the same for all of our MPPs. I have gained and appreciate the respect from the premier and my colleagues at Queen's Park, and we work collaboratively to help the people we represent. I have a strong voice representing this riding and have the reach to have high level conversations about our challenges, and the people in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock can count on that to continue.

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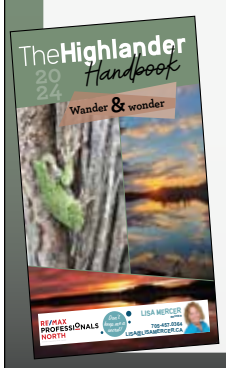

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From Haliburton County with Love

By Mike Baker

Whether he's rocking out on stage, hidden away in his study pouring over his latest writing project, or talking tech with some of the biggest names in the industry, there's rarely a dull moment in the life of County resident Jim Love.

Following a lengthy corporate career that saw him consulting for, and managing, half a dozen business and IT firms, as well as teach at the University of Waterloo and York University, Love retreated permanently to his home base in the Highlands a few years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was the best decision he ever made.

Though, like most who settle in the County for their golden years, Love found his life got busier the more he tried to scale back. Such is the natural beauty of the region, it's easy – or easier - for those with a creative spirit to tap into their innermost thoughts and feelings to develop something beautiful.

For a lot of years, Love's outlet was music. He's spent his entire life songwriting, estimating he's penned upwards of 1,000 tunes since finishing his first piece *Box Nothing, Trans Canada Highway* when he was 14.

Influenced by the likes of James Taylor, Bob Dylan, and John Prine, Love's unique sound and style has earned him accolades from all corners. He's most proud of the JUNO Award nomination for his work with Sphere Clown Band in the 1970s, while also plugging his work in musicals – with one watched by Queen Elizabeth during the Royals' visit to Canada for the sesquicentennial celebrations in 2017.

His writing has taken on a new form recently. After decades of penning bland business books he admits people either never read, or wished they hadn't, Love dabbled with fiction for the first time over the holidays.

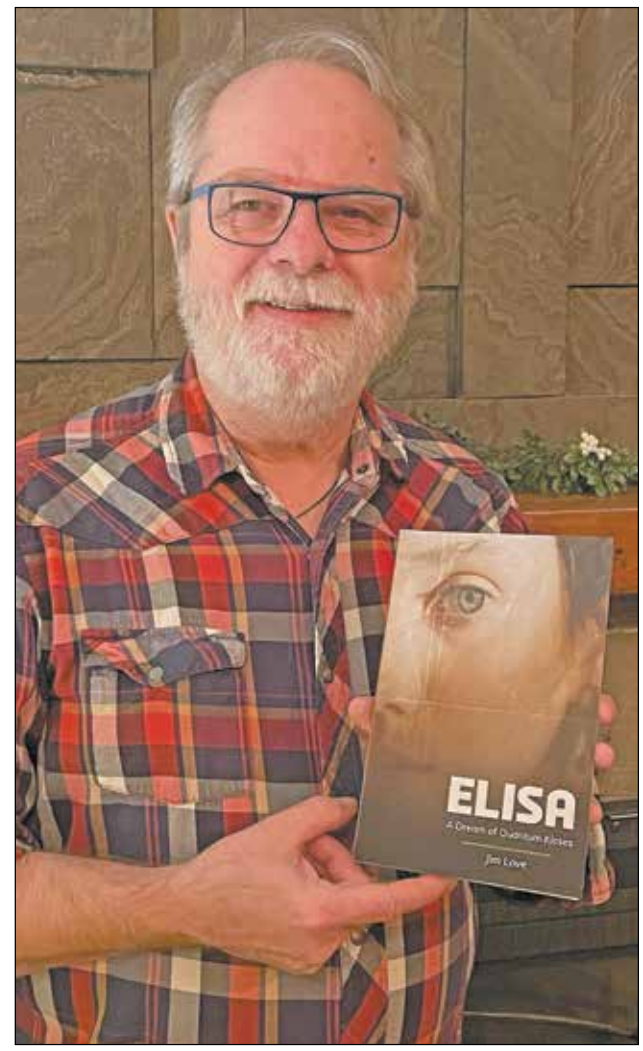
A gift for his wife, Linda, the 228-page novel *Elisa: A Tale of Quantum Kisses* is riddled with themes and callbacks from Love's career. Set in an ever-evolving world, the book explores artificial intelligence and quantum computing, with a sprinkling of love.

"It's very much rooted in technology… I started to imagine what would happen if you created a quantum person, an entity with all the benefits of AI beset with human emotion," Love said. "In the book, it's just too much. The AIs go crazy because they can't tolerate or comprehend what's happening, until Elisa comes along and then the story really begins."

With public interest in quantum theory spiking after the Marvel Cinematic Universe used the topic as a basis for a series of films from 2015 on, Love is hoping to tap into that. A Marvel fan himself, he insists *Elisa* is a much more realistic take, more science-based than fantasy.

"Everything I've got in there could be ripped from headlines two years from now," he said. "I've been doing tech for about 40 years. I wanted it to be plausible, something people with a mind for the business and knowledge about it could look at and appreciate. Think more Neil deGrasse than Stan Lee."

The book was released on Amazon in December, selling approximately one copy per day – putting Love in the top 10 per cent of self-published authors. He's hoping to have paperback copies available locally soon.



Haliburton's Jim Love recently released his first fiction novel *Elisa a Dream of Quantum Kisses. Submitted.*

On the air

A long-time volunteer with CanoeFM, assisting on various projects over the years, including writing and directing the on-air feature *Iron River* in 2015, Love has leaned into his passion for radio over the past 12 months.

He now produces two daily podcasts – *Hashtag Trending* and *Cyber Security Today.* He averages around 10,000 listeners across the two.

> *We're gaining traction, getting really cool names, good guests… the podcasts are really becoming well-known around Canada.*
>
> ***Jim Love - Author***

"I started them with IT World Canada, and when they went under, I kept them. So, I've been doing them myself for about a year," Love said. "The audience has grown a lot. We pre-record them and they usually go live each morning around 2 a.m. They're picked up by Apple podcasts and go out on YouTube as well.

"The one on securities is more specialized and technical, it's one of the top security podcasts available. The other is more general, I can have some fun with it, talk about things that are trending, technological breakthroughs, things people would like to see," he added.

Some of his most prominent guests include Jim Balsillie, former chair and co-CEO of Blackberry, and Manfred Boudreaux-Dehmer, chief information officer of NATO.

Love said he hopes to continue growing the podcasts, which are both recorded in Haliburton County.

"We're gaining traction, getting really cool names, good guests… the podcasts are really becoming well-known around Canada, I'd like to expand that to the rest of North America and maybe try to break into other areas too," Love said. "And I do it all from my home office in Haliburton. It's amazing what you can do with technology these days."

To learn more, visit podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/hashtag-trending, or listennotes.com/podcasts/cybersecurity-today-jim-love.

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BARBARA DOYLE

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Home of the Highland Storm

STARS of the WEEK

PATRICK VALENTINI

Patrick had the first goal, crucial in the team's momentum. His consistency on defence kept the opposition at bay. Patrick ended the game with a hat trick and a helper.

CALLUM MERRITT

Callum showcased his ability to move the puck along the blueline, quarter-backing many of his team's scoring opportunities. He scored the game winner.

MATTHEW MUELLER

Matthew was in his usual beast mode. He is able to take the puck from anyone at will and make smart plays. Matthew added to his points tally with a goal.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire.

Left: Aidan Innes rushing up the ice with the puck. Right: Speedy James Hamilton works his way up ice. *Photos by Justin Belanger*

U13 LL Storm move to 14-1-1 record

Highland Storm's U13 LL Casey's Water Wells & Geothermal Inc. faced off against Sturgeon Lake Thunder Feb. 15.

The Storm started well, creating some good scoring chances, hitting many posts and crossbars, but unable to get one in the back of the net.

It was the Thunder that opened the scoring halfway through the first. However, that was the end of the scoring for Sturgeon Lake as goaltender Gavin Suke shut the door for the remainder of the game.

The Storm were without centerman Nolan Frybort and defenceman Mackay Windover and needed extra effort to elevate their defensive play. Travis Mann, moving from the wing to centre, performed extremely well, winning a high percentage of faceoffs and taking care of business in the D-zone.

Huxlee Campbell needed to play on the blueline and stepped up, frustrating his opponents by continually reading the play and intercepting Sturgeon's passes in the neutral zone, putting the Storm back on the offensive.

Captain Patrick Valentini's first goal created momentum. A few minutes later, assistant captain Callum Merritt found the back of the net, with what turned out to be the game-winner. Less than 10 seconds later, assistant captain Matthew Mueller blew by the Thunder's defence and give the Storm a two-goal lead.

Sturgeon had difficulty creating offensive opportunities with Claire Hamilton and Aiden Innes' hard backchecking - where they stole the puck repeatedly - and the speed, determination and all-out grit of James Hamilton.

Nathan Hill worked hard all game, continually getting the puck out and over his team's blueline and went to the net hard, coming close to adding to his team's tally.

As the Thunder's frustration mounted, the game started to become more physical. Aliyah Cox fearlessly challenged her opponents and continually won battles on the boards. The Storm won 5-1, giving them a 14-1-1 record. *(Submitted)*

SCORE BOARD

Feb. 11

- U13 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Brock 2-0 W
- U11 Carquest Minden vs. Mariposa 4-1 L
- U15 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs. Millbrook 5-1 L

Feb. 14

- U11 Rep Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Millbrook 9-2 W
- U18 Tom Prentice & Sons vs. Millbrook 3-0 W

Feb. 15

- U11 Rep Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Mariposa 4-3 W
- U9 Sharp Electric vs Brock 7-1 L
- U13 Casey's Water Wells & Geothermal Inc vs. Sturgeon 5-1 W

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Chase Del Colombo earned first star honours after posting three assists in the Huskies 4-3 win over the Lindsay Muskies Feb. 17. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Huskies fry Muskies in 'Battle of Hwy. 35' sweep

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton County Huskies survived a late-game scare to complete a season sweep over the Lindsay Muskies on Family Day Monday, in what head coach Ryan Ramsay said was a ruthless display of the home side's dominance.

The 4-3 scoreline at the final buzzer didn't do justice to the blue and white's performance according to the bench boss, who watched his team more than double their opponents in puck possession and shots.

"We had 51 shots, versus 19 against, and we had control of the puck for 25 minutes against their 12… it was a dominant performance," Ramsay told *The Highlander.* "There's a little bit of a rivalry with the Muskies – we beat them every year in the series, but I think this was our first sweep. Obviously, we're happy with that."

The win carried the Huskies to a 4-0 record in the 'Battle of Hwy. 35' this year. They also ran out 4-2 winners Dec. 17, won 7-2 Dec. 31, and snuck out a 1-0 decision Jan. 17.

Chase Del Colombo was the hero at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena this week, recording three assists after being bumped up to the top line to replace co-captain Ty Petrou, who left with a minor injury in the first period.

"He played great. It just shows the depth we have. Del is a 17-year-old rookie who has worked his socks off all year, been in and out of the lineup – some games he's barely played two minutes, but he's bought into his role and is turning into a key player," Ramsay said. "It's important that we have guys step up when our top players go down or aren't having great nights."

It was goalless through the first, with the Huskies running into a hot goaltender in Jason Tremblay, who turned away all 23 shots he faced.

The netminder had no answer two-and-a-half minutes into the middle frame when Del Colombo found Kieran Litterick, who made no mistake for his sixth goal of the year.

After Isaac Larmand and Cole Brooks took back-to-back boarding and tripping minors, the Muskies took advantage of their five-on-three powerplay to tie the game at 4:47 – with Owen Dawson roofing one past Tyler Hodges.

The home side exploded in the third – Tai York re-established a lead at 7:53, assisted by Cameron Hankai and Del Colombo, with Nathan Poole adding another on the powerplay at 14:43 from Hankai and Deandres De Jesus. Luke Hampel netted the game-winner at 15:10, from Nolan Ling and Del Colombo.

With the clock counting down, forward Stefan Forgione took an almost costly four-minute double minor after pulling an opponent's facemask off during a scuffle. It was his second penalty of a fiery five-minute spell, which also saw him sin-binned for cross-checking.

"It was a stupid play, but we addressed it. We drove home the message that we can't be doing that stuff this late in the season," Ramsay said.

Huskies 7-3 Burlington

The Huskies completed a Valentine's Day massacre on the road Feb. 14, scoring seven in a one-sided win over the Burlington Cougars.

Chase Lefebvre, Petrou, York, Poole, Forgione, Larmand, and Noah Lodoen scored. Hodges earned a 37-save victory.

The Huskies have three games at home over the next seven days, hosting the Markham Royals Feb. 22 (4 p.m.), the Stouffville Spirit Feb. 23 (2 p.m.), and the rescheduled tilt with the North York Rangers Feb. 26 (4:30 p.m.) That match-up was supposed to take place Saturday but was cancelled due to the weekend snowstorm.

With just five games of the regular season remaining, the Huskies are third in the OJHL East Conference, two points back of the Toronto Junior Canadiens in second.

With playoffs around the corner, the Huskies will likely face one of the St. Michael's Buzzers, Cobourg Cougars, or Pickering Panthers in the first round.

"Everyone has their input on who they think is the better team for us to be drawn against – at the end of the day, we just have to play our game and then it shouldn't matter who we get," Ramsay said, noting he hopes to have forwards Declan Bowmaster and Alex Bradshaw, who have missed the past couple weeks through injury, back for a postseason run.

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Highlander sports

Red Hawk skiers fly at COSSA championships

The Red Hawk Nordic Ski team competed at COSSA at Arrowhead Provincial Park Feb. 12.

The meet combined skiers from COSSA, GBSSA (Georgian Bay Secondary School Association) and CISSA (Conference of Independent Schools Athletic Association) as skiers aimed to qualify for the OFSAA nordic championships Feb. 20-21 in Sudbury.

The senior boys were first on the course, skiing 7.5 km. The top Red Hawk was Brechin Johnston, with a second-place finish and a time of 28:02. Evan Backus followed in third; Graham Backus fifth; Owen Megrah-Poppe eighth and Carter Sisco 11th. The team finished first in the interval races and followed Adam Scott for second in the 4x800m sprint.

The senior girls swept the COSSA rankings, led by Violet Humphries with a second-place finish and a time of 30:58; followed by Erika Hoare in third; Olivia Gruppe fourth; Ella Gervais fifth; Teagan Hamilton sixth; Grace Allder seventh and Hannah Sharp eighth, dominating team rival, Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School. The top four skiers teamed up for a very fast sprint relay to round out their gold medal day, showing they can hang with ski powerhouses like Huntsville and Collingwood.

In the junior boys' division, Tristan Humphries made his debut on the COSSA podium finishing in third, completing the 5.5km course in 21:57. He was closely followed by Winston Ramsdale in fourth; and new skiers Eric Mueller 12th; Brady Hamilton 15th and Jack Sharp in 19th. The team was edged out by Adam Scott for interval race team champions, but fought back to beat them in the sprint relay.

Sole junior girl skier Annika Gervais skated her way to a silver medal with a time of 22:44 on the 5.5km course, also earning her first COSSA medal as a new high school skier. Gervais also placed third later in the day in the 800m exhibition sprint.

High school coaches Karen Gervais, and Mike Rieger, and community coaches Kevin Hoare and Joleen Thomas, were very pleased with the athletes' performances, and their strong determination feeding their continued improvements. *(Submitted)*

Above: Annika Gervais accelerates at the start of the junior girls' race. Insert: Tristan Humphries tags teammate Brady Hamilton in the sprint relay. *Submitted.*

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HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Board Community Member Recruitment for 2025/2026

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers, and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services, including Primary Care, Hospital (Acute Inpatient and Emergency Care), Long-Term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health & Addictions Services, and Community Support Services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at www.hhhs.ca.

HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member as a Board Community Member on one of the Board's Standing Committees.

At a minimum, Board Community Member should expect to devote approximately 4-6 hours of time per month, including attendance at committee meetings (about 9 per year) held in-person and/or virtually.

Annual Board Community Member recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with clinical background, legal, and patient and healthcare advocacy backgrounds.**

At HHHS, we recognize and respect the contributions that a diverse team can make to our healthcare system. We welcome candidates of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and identities to apply. If you require assistance or accommodations in the process, please contact Michel Henry for prompt support.

How to be Considered

Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Community Member Recruitment" in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca **by March 1, 2025**. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at: www.hhhs.ca/about/board

Inquiries can be directed to:

Email: mhenry@hhhs.ca

Phone: (705) 457-2527

Highlander community

Rotary supports youth

Haliburton Youth Unlimited's Leanne Young, right, said they were very grateful for a generous donation of $3,000 from the Rotary Club of Haliburton. "These funds will go towards sporting and kitchen equipment for after-school programming at the Bridge Youth Centre," she said. She is pictured with Maureen O'Hara. *Submitted.*

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GARDENS OF HALIBURTON

What's on

EVENTS

Arts Council Haliburton Highlands is welcoming submissions of stories for their joint project with CanoeFM: Story Circle. Appropriate-for-broadcast stories of less than 1,500 words will be considered. Submit ideas for review to storycircle22@gmail.com.

Highlands Opera Studio has opened registration for live auditions for 2025 featured productions, with video auditions also available until Feb. 22. Casting is for *The Merry Widow* (all roles), *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Amore), independent study, and creative/composer-in-residence. Apply at auditions.highlandsoperastudio.com.

Fees for public skating programs have been removed at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, with admission by donation. Children nine and under are required to wear CSA-approved helmets. Check-in is required before entering the ice pads. Visit mindenhills.ca, or call 705-286-1260 ext. 554 for schedules.

Feb. 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library is hosting a community book nook at the Minden Hills branch. Choose from a variety of gently-read features across multiple genres. Payment is by cash donation. All money raised supports library enhancements and programs for all libraries in the County. Taking place on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Feb. 22, 11 a.m. Celebrate Black History Month at the Minden Library with a creative and educational craft inspired by the famous quilts of Gee's Bend! All materials will be provided. No registration required. All ages.

Feb. 22, 1 to 3 p.m. Student Artist Reception at Agnes Jamieson Gallery in Minden. Featuring works completed by students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School. This year's theme is 'The Land Between'. Refreshments will be served, all are welcome to attend.

Feb. 22, 6 p.m. The Haliburton School of Art + Design is hosting a Sculpture Forest Winter Wonderland, inviting the community for a magical walk or snowshoe through one of Haliburton's landmark destinations. Refreshments and entertainment in the great hall following the tour. Tickets are $25 for adults, $15 for students. Kids 12 and under are free. All proceeds supporting HSAD student bursaries.

Feb. 28, 1 to 3 p.m. Join us every PA Day this school year for a free family friendly movie screening at our Minden Hills, Stanhope and Dysart Library! This month we will be watching *The Mighty Ducks*. No registration required; all families welcomed. Movie is rated G.

March 4, 1 p.m. Do you love gardening? Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre for a presentation from guest speaker Diana Westland, who will be discussing 'growing food from seed'. Monthly meeting to follow. New members welcome.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo hopefully returning in March.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m, tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.

Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Thursdays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only
Darts at 7 p.m. Feb. 24. Cost is $5 per player.
Afternoon sessions at 2 p.m. Feb. 26. Cost is $4 per player.
Cornhole at 7 p.m. Feb. 20 and 27. Cost is $5 per player.
Fish n' Chips Fridays Feb. 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per person.
Wings and jam session Feb. 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.
Meat draw Feb. 22 at 3 p.m.

Ken McFarlane Ice Fishing Derby Feb. 22. Weigh in is at 6 p.m. Registration is $20.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk
General meeting - second Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Euchre - **Tuesdays** 1 p.m.

Open darts - **Tuesdays** 7 p.m.

Big buck bid euchre first **Wednesday** of the month, from 11 a.m., $15 per person.

Meat roll every **Saturday** at 3 p.m.

For more information contact Legion
705-454-8127

Minden's Agnes Jamieson Gallery will have five featured exhibits in 2025. *File.*

Agnes Jamieson celebrates five featured exhibits for 2025

By Mike Baker

With Agnes Jamieson Gallery recently releasing its exhibit schedule for the year, facility manager Shannon Kelly said there's a diverse spread of offerings that should appeal to all art enthusiasts in the County.

The space, located at 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. in Minden, reopened its doors last week for the second-annual Archie Stouffer Elementary School student exhibit, with more than 150 students contributing to dozens of featured pieces.

An opening reception is taking place this weekend, Feb. 22 from 1 to 3 p.m.

"This year's focus is 'The Land Between', where students were encouraged to celebrate our biodiversity and what it means to them," Kelly said. "This exhibit is one of my favourite things we do here – I love the connection with the students, it's so important to cultivate and foster that because it helps to deepen our bond with the community."

County-based artists Gary Blundell, Harvey Walker, Natalia Brown, and Nadine Papp served as jurors for the exhibit, which runs until March 15.

The four featured exhibits, with the first opening March 20 and the last closing Nov. 15, offer a smorgasbord of mediums, techniques, and styles, Kelly said. This year, she took more of a "regional approach" with her selections, with mostly Minden and County-based talent on show, alongside prominent names such as Gord Peteran and Michael Dumas.

First up is 'We're Still Talking', a textile exhibit with contributions by Wendy Wood, Sandi Luck, and gallery staffer Papp.

"Those three were all part of the Halls Island Artist Residency last year, so they worked together to collect natural plants to help with dying their fabrics," Kelly said. "This exhibit will feature part of what came out of their time spent collaborating last summer."

An opening reception has been scheduled for March 22.

Peteran, known for his design of the 'Big Red Doors' at Haliburton School of Art + Design, will help kick-off the summer season with his feature 'Mountain Lake at a Glance', running May 15 to July 12.

"He's had an amazing career and has been exhibited before for his woodworking and furniture – this one is focused on him painting the exact same view at Mountain Lake over the past 40 years," Kelly said. The opening reception is May 17.

"The series has almost become a diary for him – some of the pieces are large, some are small on press board. Some are on paper plates or coffee coasters he found around the cottage – I think people will like the spontaneity," she added.

Dumas' 'Of Light and Life' will be a retrospect of works from his 50-year painting career, with a sprinkling of new additions. Kelly said it will run July 17 to Sept. 13, with an opening reception July 19.

The display will feature more than just the finished product, she added.

"Michael really likes to show his processes – so a lot of pieces will be sketches, quick doodles he did to show how he gets from point A to point B… and the opening is on his and his wife Ellen's 50th anniversary, which is a nice touch."

A family exhibit on the Haycocks' 'Like Father, Like Daughter' will round out the season, with a variety of pieces from Maurice Haycock, Kathy Haycock, Karole Haycock Pittman, and Erika Pittman to be displayed from Sept. 18 to Nov. 15.

"Maurice painted in the Arctic and collaborated with several members of the Group of Seven – there will be some of his pieces from Kathy's private collection that have never been seen before," she said. "It's a touching multi-generational exhibit that shows where Kathy and [Karole] drew their inspiration."

The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admittance is by donation.

What's on

Top: Ayrston Briggs and his sister, Gwen, make some cool crafts with cultural program coordinator Robert Wong. Above: Multiple different mediums of imagination. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Famjam at the cultural centre

Family fun was to be had this year on Family Day at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. It was an indoor event for the cold days of winter, with lots of new interactive exhibits for the whole family to check out. The Rotary Club of Minden helped make everything run smoothly while serving up chili and hot dogs with some sweet treats for dessert. The Archie Stouffer student art show was on display for all to see with works from the kids in Grades 1 through 8. There will be an official opening Feb. 22 from 1-3 p.m. at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. *(Justin Belanger)*

Tuesday, February 25th @ 7pm

Downtown Haliburton's BIA:

Annual General Meeting

BIA Members are welcome to join us for the Annual General Meeting Room at the Dysart et al municipal building.
(135 Maple Ave)

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NOTICES

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. (1-888-425 -2666)

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. Meeting in Haliburton every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887.

NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Mondays - 7:00 PM at West Guilford Baptist church. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

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This individual needs to be self-motivated, able to communicate clearly, organized and able to multi-task.

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The part-time member of our Content Creation Team will work with our Graphic Designer in the creation of digital content.

This team is responsible for assisting clients in the creation of their digital content, developing support material for applications and testing of applications for the user experience (UX).

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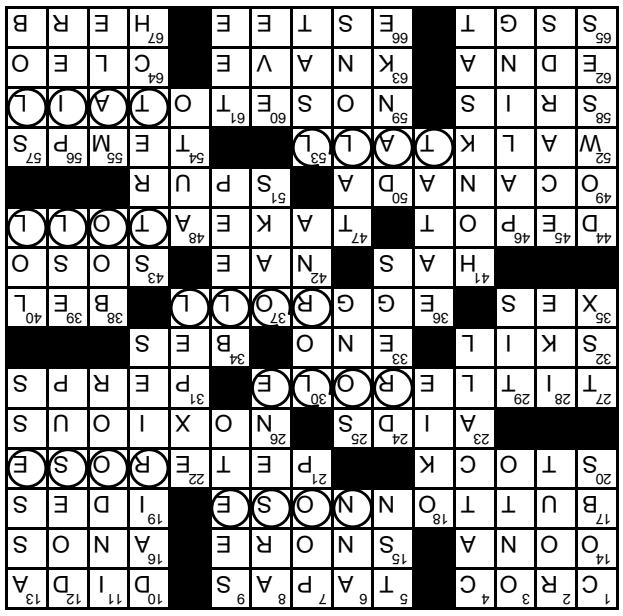
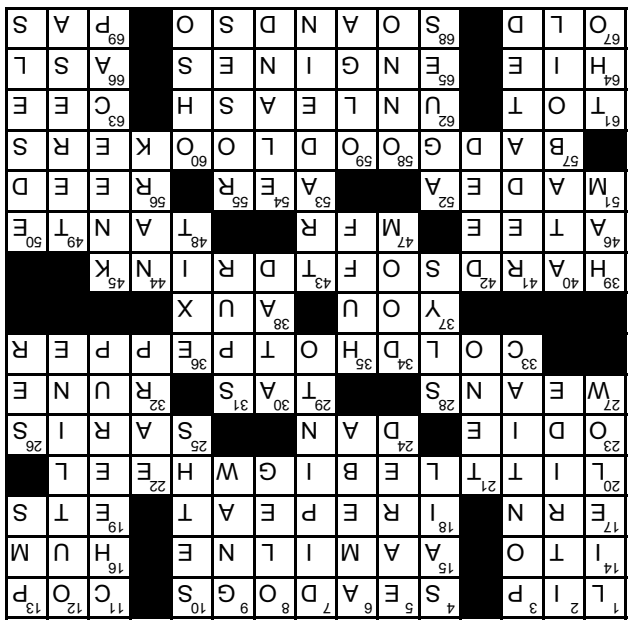


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



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HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires a Payroll/Benefit Administrator

Reporting to the Deputy Treasurer the Payroll/Benefit Administrator coordinates and administers the County's payroll, benefit, and pension programs along with onboarding and leave activities.

The successful candidate will hold a college diploma in Business or Payroll Administration or other related field and possess 3 years of related municipal experience. The hourly wage range for this non-union position is $35.09 - $41.05. This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than February 26, 2025, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The interview evaluation process will include a practical skills component.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Highlands East Residents, Share Your Input with Us!

The Municipality is proposing to update the operating hours at the five (5) waste disposal sites within Highlands East. We have prepared a revised operating schedule for both summer and winter hours.

We would like to gather the opinions of many different community members as part of our consultation process. All feedback will be taken into consideration when finalising the proposed schedules. Your feedback is essential to selecting the operating schedule that best meets the needs of our residents.

Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey online here http://bit.ly/4hwDgTu or open your camera app and point at the QR code below and tap the link that appears after scanning.

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Township of Algonquin Highlands
Public Works Department

We are currently accepting resumes for the following position:

Operator – Dorset Yard

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete details.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

Township of Algonquin Highlands
Parks, Recreation and Trails Department

We are currently accepting resumes for the following positions:

Senior Trail Technician/By-Law Officer
Trail Technician/By-Law Officer

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume to:

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by Barbara Olson
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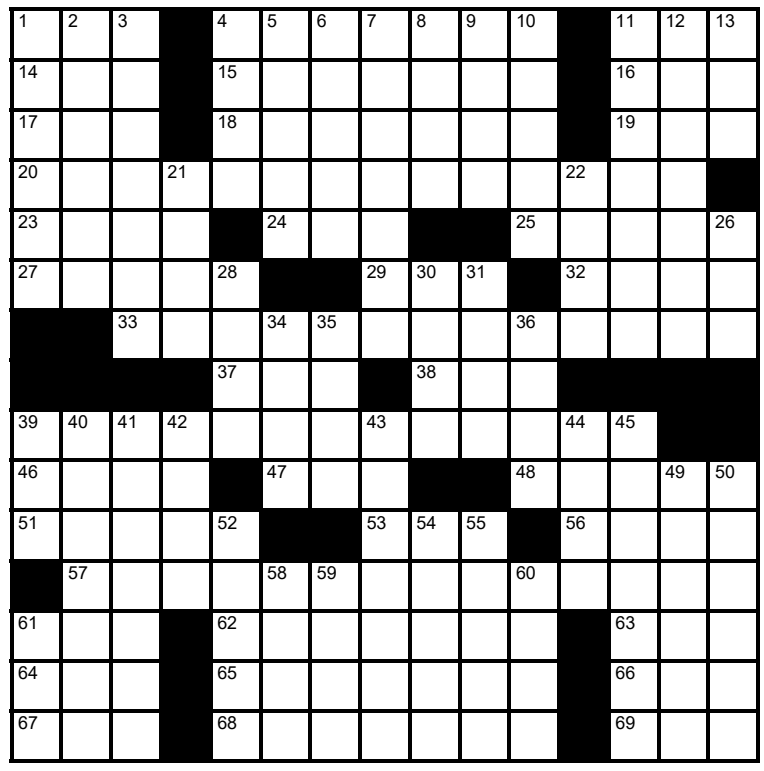

Across

1 Pouter's protrusion
4 Old salts
11 One of "the fuzz"
14 "Am ___ blame?"
15 Creator of Pooh and Roo
16 Play a kazoo
17 West end?
18 "Once again, ..."
19 UFO pilots
20 Diminutive head honcho?
23 Drooling dog in the comics
24 Ottawa-born Aykroyd
25 Bollywood wraps
27 Eases off a habit
29 Classroom helpers: Abbr.
32 Ancient letter
33 Refrigerated jalapeño?
37 Pronoun on a mall map
38 Secondary: Abbr.
39 Frozen Fresca?
46 To ___ (just so)
47 Product producer: Abbr.
48 Aunt, in Anjou
51 ___ fortune (got rich)
53 ___ Lingus (Ireland's carrier)
56 Stick in an oboe
57 Naughty hotties?
61 Wearer of training pants, maybe
62 Turn loose, as hounds
63 Piano's middle key
64 Move it, old-style
65 Gentlemen start them at the races
66 Digital communication?: Abbr.
67 Like Macdonald who had a farm
68 Son of a you-know-what
69 The ___, Manitoba

Down

1 Stay off the radar
2 BTO's "Let ___"
3 Firebird or Le Mans maker
4 Wind catcher on the Bluenose
5 Dog-___ (worn)
6 Petri dish organism
7 Take from, as a rainy-day fund
8 French designer Cassini
9 Work on, as a dog bone
10 Rogen and Green, for two
11 Lose the blues
12 Writer's framework
13 Trudeau Sr. and Jr., for two
21 " ... a ___ 'clock scholar"
22 Gunfighter Wyatt
26 Sun. talk
28 Stallone and Stone
30 Wee bit
31 Bronc rider's prod
34 Impending ill-fortune
35 Door-slammer's state
36 Red word near a door
39 Meat in a Seuss title
40 Bubbling, as water
41 Went out with again
42 Property purchaser's paper
43 Used car, likely
44 Bobbies' informant
45 Patella
49 Mother with a Nobel Prize
50 Ford flops
52 Feverish feelings
54 African antelope
55 Pink wines
58 ___ account (never)
59 Belarusian gymnast Korbut
60 Overstater's "very"
61 Brief "but"

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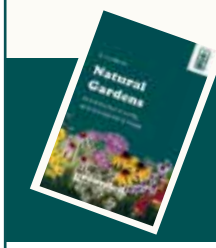

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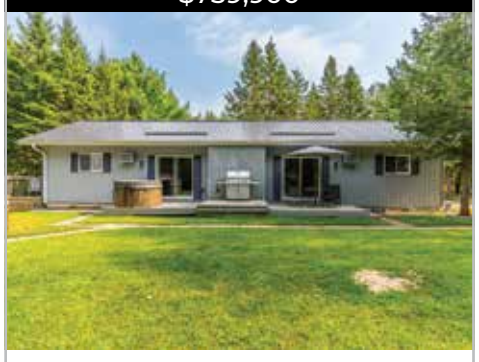

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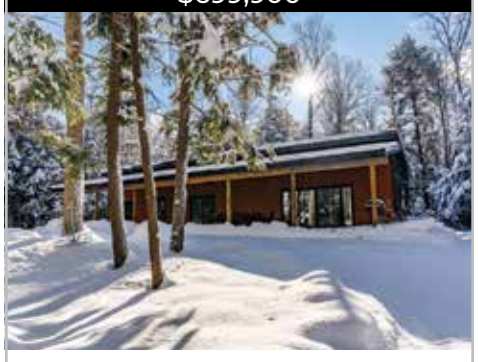

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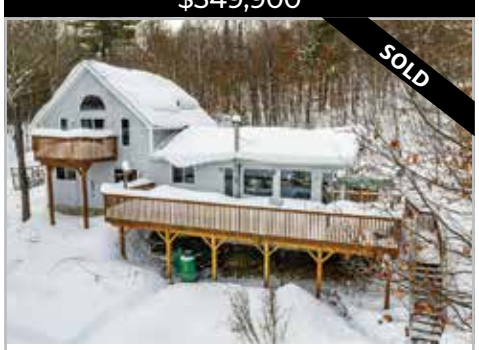

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